

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

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1. (Currently Amended) A searching system for searching contents that were broadcast, the searching system having an inputting unit, a searching unit, and a terminal unit,

wherein the inputting unit comprises:

first storing means for storing information representing at least time at which contents were broadcast corresponding to a predetermined operation; and

first communicating means for transmitting the information representing time stored in said storing means to an external unit,

wherein the searching unit comprises:

second storing means for correlatively storing information representing contents and broadcast time thereof; and

searching means for searching information representing the contents stored in said second storing means corresponding to the information representing time, and

wherein the terminal unit comprises:

second communicating means for receiving the information representing time transmitted from the inputting unit through said first communicating means;

third communicating means for transmitting the information representing time received by said second communicating means and receiving search results transmitted from the searching unit; and

first displaying means for displaying the information representing time received by said second communicating means, and the search results by the

searching unit, and an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

2. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,  
wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

3. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,  
wherein the searching unit transmits the information representing the contents (referred to as first contents) that were broadcast at the time represented by the information representing time and information representing contents (referred to as second contents) that were broadcast earlier than those and as the search results to the terminal unit corresponding to the information representing time, the amount of second contents being a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

4. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,  
wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results obtained by said searching means and displayed on said first displaying means, the terminal unit is accessed to a site at which the contents as the search results is purchasable.

5. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,  
wherein when the information representing time is received by said second communicating means, the transmission of the information representing time from the inputting unit to the terminal unit is virtually displayed.

6. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 5,  
wherein the inputting unit further comprises:

second displaying means for displaying entries of information representing  
time stored in said first storing means, and

wherein when the information representing time is received by said second  
communicating means, the virtual display of said first displaying means of the  
terminal unit is correlated with the display of the entries of the information  
representing time displayed on said second displaying means of the inputting unit.

7. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 6,

wherein when the number of entries of the information representing time  
displayed on said second displaying means decreases, the number of entries of the  
information representing time displayed on said first displaying means increases.

8. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the terminal unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a  
public unit.

9. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the terminal unit is composed of a personal computer.

10. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the contents are a musical piece.

11. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 10,  
wherein the terminal unit further comprises:  
audio reproducing means for reproducing audio data, and  
wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit  
corresponding to the search results searched by said searching means and displayed  
on said first displaying means, audio data corresponding to a musical piece as the  
search results is requested to the searching unit and the audio data transmitted from  
the searching unit is reproduced by said audio reproducing means.

12. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,  
wherein the contents are commodity information.

13. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,  
wherein the searching unit further comprises:  
interface means for allowing information representing the contents stored in  
said second storing means and/or broadcast time of the contents to be changed from  
an external unit that has been properly filtered.

14. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 1,  
wherein the inputting unit further comprises:  
program storing means for storing a control program that controls the  
inputting unit, and  
wherein the control program is transmitted from the terminal unit to the  
inputting unit by said first communicating means and said second communicating  
means and stored to said program storing means.

15. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 14,

wherein the control program is transmitted from the searching unit to the terminal unit by said third communicating means and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit.

16. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 14,

wherein the terminal unit further comprises:

connecting means for connecting the terminal unit to a predetermined network, and

wherein the control program is transmitted to the terminal unit through the predetermined network connected to the terminal unit and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by said connecting means.

17. (Original) The searching system as set forth in claim 14,

wherein the terminal unit further comprises:

reading means for reading data recorded on a predetermined record medium, and

wherein the control program is read from the record medium by said reading means and transmitted to said inputting unit.

18. (Currently Amended) A terminal unit for causing contents that were broadcast to be searched, comprising:

first communicating means for receiving time information representing a predetermined time from an inputting unit and transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to an external unit;

second communicating means for transmitting the information representing the predetermined time received from said first communicating means to a searching unit and receiving search results from the searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a storing means corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the storing means correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof; and

G 1  
displaying means for displaying the information representing the predetermined time received by said first communicating means, ~~and~~ the search results of the searching unit, and an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

19. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,  
wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

20. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,  
wherein said displaying means displays the information representing the contents (referred to as first contents) that were broadcast at the time represented by the information representing the predetermined time and information representing contents (referred to as second contents) that were broadcast earlier than those and as the search results corresponding to the information representing the predetermined

time, the amount of second contents being a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

21. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,

wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results obtained by said searching means and displayed on said displaying means, the terminal unit is accessed to a site at which the contents as the search results is purchasable.

22. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,

wherein when the information representing the predetermined time is received from the inputting unit, said displaying means virtually displays the transmission of the information representing the predetermined time from the inputting unit to the terminal unit.

23. (Currently Amended) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 22,

wherein when the information representing the predetermined time is received from the inputting unit, the virtual display of said displaying means of the terminal unit is correlated with the display of the entries of the information representing the predetermined time displayed on a second displaying means ~~that~~ included in the inputting unit ~~has~~.

24. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 23,

wherein when the number of entries of the information representing the predetermined time displayed on said second displaying means decreases, the number

of entries of the information representing the predetermined time displayed on said first displaying means increases.

25. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,  
wherein the terminal unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

26. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,  
wherein the terminal unit is composed of a personal computer.

27. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,  
wherein the contents are a musical piece,  
wherein the terminal unit further comprises:

audio reproducing means for reproducing audio data, and

wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results searched by said searching means and displayed on said first displaying means, audio data corresponding to a musical piece as the search results is requested to the searching unit and the audio data transmitted from the searching unit is reproduced by said audio reproducing means.

28. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,  
wherein a control program for controlling the inputting unit is transmitted to the inputting unit by said first communicating means.

29. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 28,



wherein the control program is transmitted from the searching unit to the terminal unit and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by said second communicating means.

30. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 28, further comprising:  
connecting means for connecting the terminal unit to a predetermined network,

wherein the control program is transmitted from the predetermined network to the terminal unit and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by said connecting means.

31. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 28, further comprising:  
reading means for reading data from a predetermined record medium, and  
wherein the control program is read from the record medium by said reading means and transmitted to the inputting unit.

32. (Currently Amended) A terminal unit for causing contents that were broadcast to be searched, comprising:

first storing means for storing time information representing a predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation;

communicating means for transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to a searching unit and receiving search results from the searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a second storing means corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time,

the second storing means correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof; and

displaying means for displaying the information representing the predetermined time stored in said first storing means, ~~and~~ the search results of the searching unit, and an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

33. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 32,

wherein said displaying means displays the information representing the contents (referred to as first contents) that were broadcast at the time represented by the information representing the predetermined time and information representing contents (referred to as second contents) that were broadcast earlier than those and as the search results corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the amount of second contents being a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

34. (Original) The terminal unit as set forth in claim 32,

wherein the contents are a musical piece,

wherein the terminal unit further comprises:

audio reproducing means for reproducing audio data, and

wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results searched by said searching means and displayed on said first displaying means, audio data corresponding to a musical piece as the search results is requested to the searching unit and the audio data transmitted from the searching unit is reproduced by said audio reproducing means.

35. (Currently Amended) A searching unit for searching contents that were broadcast and transmitting search results to an external unit, comprising:

a database for correlatively storing information representing contents and broadcast time thereof; and

a communication interface for receiving time information representing a predetermined time and identification information of contents from an external unit,

wherein the information representing the contents is searched corresponding to the received time information representing the predetermined time and the received identification information of the contents to determine the search results to be transmitted to the external unit for display thereat with an indicator for activation at the external unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

36. (Original) The searching unit as set forth in claim 35,

wherein the search results are transmitted to the external unit through said communication interface.

37. (Currently Amended) A searching method for searching contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing information representing at least time at which contents were broadcast corresponding to a predetermined operation of an inputting unit to a first storing means;

(b) transmitting the information representing time stored in the first storing means to an external unit;

(c) causing a searching unit to search information representing contents stored in a second storing means corresponding to the information representing time;

(d) receiving the information representing time transmitted from the inputting unit at the first communicating step (b);

(e) transmitting the information representing time received at the second communicating step (d) and receiving search results transmitted from the searching unit;

(f) displaying the information representing time received at the second communicating step (d); and

(g) displaying the search results of the searching unit and an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

38. (Currently Amended) A searching method for searching contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving timing information representing a predetermined time and identification information of contents from an external unit;

(b) searching the information representing the contents from a database corresponding to the received time information representing time and the received identification information of the contents, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof; and

(c) transmitting search results searched at the searching step (b) to the external unit, the external unit displaying the search results received and an indicator for activation at the external unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

39. (Currently Amended) A displaying method for causing a terminal unit to display search results of contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving time information representing a predetermined time from an inputting unit;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to an external unit;

(c) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time received at the first communicating step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(d) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(e) displaying the information representing the predetermined time received at the first communicating step (a), and the search results received at the fourth communicating step (d), and an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

40. (Currently Amended) A displaying method for causing a terminal unit to display search results of contents that were broadcast along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing time information representing a predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(c) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(d) displaying the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) and the search results of the contents received at the second communication step (c) along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

a' 41. (Currently Amended) A record medium for recording a control program that causes search results of contents to be displayed on a terminal unit along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results, the control program causing the terminal unit to perform the steps of:

(a) receiving time information representing a predetermined time from an inputting unit;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to an external unit;

(c) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(d) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(e) displaying at least the received search results along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

42. (Currently Amended) A record medium for recording a control program that causes search results of contents to be displayed on a terminal unit along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results, the control program causing the terminal unit to perform the steps of:

(a) storing time information representing a predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(c) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(d) displaying at least the search results on the terminal unit along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claims 43-105 (Canceled).